

Remarks

An Amendment After Final was previously submitted on October 6, 2004 in which Applicants amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 22. On November 22, 2004 an Advisory Action was mailed wherein the Examiner stated that claim 22 was inadvertently omitted from the rejection and that the proposed amendments would be entered. In accordance with the Advisory Action, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 18 and 22 are now rejected, claims 5, 8, 9, 13, 15-17, 19-21 and 24-25 are now objected to, and claim 23 is allowed. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claim 13 has been cancelled, and claim 22 has been reinstated to its condition prior to the Advisory Action. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 18 and 22 are now rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,541,885 issued to Caudill, Jr. In the final Office Action and Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 8, 9, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claim 13 in independent form. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 13. As such, independent claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Since claims 2-12, 14-22, 24, and 25 depend on amended claim 1, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have also amended claim 1 to correct minor grammatical errors. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 22 to “undo” the amendments entered by the Examiner in response to the previous Amendment After Final.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Since this amendment has been submitted within the original three month response period set forth in the final Office Action, no fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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